

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing device, comprising:

a region extraction unit for separating and extracting a character region, a graphic region and a photograph region from image data;

a region compression unit for performing a compression process for the image data in each region extracted by said region extraction unit;

a region synthesis unit for synthesizing the image data of the regions compressed by said region compression unit; and

a compression method selection unit for selecting from among a plurality of compression methods, for each region, a one of the plurality of compression methods for each region for the compression process to be performed for each region, wherein the selection unit selects the compression method in accordance with a type of the region from among ~~[[a]]~~ the plurality of compression methods, and wherein for each type of region, the selection unit selects a compression method only from compression methods in the plurality of compression methods that are each of which is designated for the type of region;

said region compression unit performing the compression process for the image data of each region using the compression method selected for the region by said compression method selection unit.

2. (Currently Amended) An image processing device, comprising:

a region extraction unit for separating and extracting a character region, a graphic region and a photograph region from image data;

a region compression unit for performing a compression process for the image data in each region extracted by said region extraction unit;

a region synthesis unit for synthesizing the image data of the regions compressed by said region compression unit; and

a compression process mode setting unit for setting a speed preference mode as a compression process mode;

said region compression unit using, when the speed preference mode is set by said compression process mode setting unit, one of a plurality of compression methods designated for the image data in each region which exhibits a highest processing speed to perform the compression process for the individual region, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression method is selected from among a plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods which is designated for the type of region.

3. (Currently Amended) An image processing device, comprising:

a region extraction unit for separating and extracting a character region, a graphic region and a photograph region from image data;

a region compression unit for performing a compression process for the image data in each region extracted by said region extraction unit;

a region synthesis unit for synthesizing the image data of the regions compressed by said region compression unit; and

a compression process mode setting unit for setting a picture quality preference mode as a compression processing mode;

said region compression unit using, when the picture quality preference mode is set by said compression process mode setting unit, one of a plurality of compression methods designated for the image data in each region which exhibits a least picture quality deterioration to perform the compression process for the individual region, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression method is selected from among a plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods ~~which~~ is designated for the type of region.

4. (Currently Amended) An image processing device, comprising:

a region extraction unit for separating and extracting a character region, a graphic region and a photograph region from image data;

a region compression unit for performing a compression process for the image data in each region extracted by said region extraction unit;

a region synthesis unit for synthesizing the image data of the regions compressed by said region compression unit; and

a compression process mode setting unit for setting a size preference mode as a compression processing mode;

said region compression unit using, when the size preference mode is set by said compression process mode setting unit, one of a plurality of compression methods designated for the image data in each region which exhibits a highest compression ratio to perform the compression process for the individual region, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression method is selected from among a plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods ~~which~~ is designated for the type of region.

5. (Currently Amended) An image processing device, comprising:

a region extraction unit for separating and extracting a character region, a graphic region and a photograph region from image data;

a region compression unit for performing a compression process for the image data in each region extracted by said region extraction unit;

a region synthesis unit for synthesizing the image data of the regions compressed by said region compression unit; and

a compression process mode setting unit for setting a speed preference mode, a picture quality preference mode or a size preference mode as a compression processing mode;

said region compression unit using, when the speed preference mode is set by said compression process mode setting unit, one of a plurality of compression methods designated for the image data in each region which exhibits a highest processing speed to perform the compression process for the individual region, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression method is selected from among **[[a]]** the plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods which is designated for the type of region,

said region compression unit using, when the picture quality preference mode is set by said compression process mode setting unit, one of **[[a]]** the plurality of compression methods designated for the image data in each region which exhibits a least picture quality deterioration to perform the compression process for the individual region, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression method is selected from among **[[a]]** the plurality of compression methods, wherein

each of the plurality of compression methods ~~which~~ is designated for the type of region, and

said region compression unit using, when the size preference mode is set by said compression process mode setting unit, one of **[[a]]** the plurality of compression methods designated for the image data in each region which exhibits a highest compression ratio to perform the compression process for the individual region, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression method is selected from among **[[a]]** the plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods ~~which~~ is designated for the type of region.

6. (Currently Amended) An image processing device, comprising:

[[a]] an object extraction unit for interpreting a document file described in a page description language, and extracting an object which is a component of the document file,

an object compression unit for performing a compression process for each of the object data extracted by said object extraction unit;

an object synthesis unit for synthesizing the object data compressed by said object compression unit; and

a compression method selection unit for selecting a compression method for the compression process to be performed for each of the objects extracted by said object extraction unit from among a plurality of compression methods designated individually for types of the object data, wherein, for each type of object, the designated compression method is selected from among a plurality of compression methods, ~~each of which is~~ that are designated for the type of object;

said object compression unit performing the compression process for each of the objects using the compression method selected for the objects by said compression method selection unit.

7. (Currently Amended) An image processing method, comprising:

a region extraction step of separating and extracting a character region, a graphic region and a photograph region from image data;

a region compression step of performing a compression process for image data in each region extracted by said region extraction step;

a region synthesis step of synthesizing the image data of the regions compressed by said region compression step; and

a compression method selection step for selecting, for each region, a compression method for the compression process to be performed in accordance with a type of the region from among a plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods ~~which~~ is designated for the type of region;

said region compression step performing the compression process for the image data of each region using the compression method selected for the region data by said compression method selection step.

8. (Currently Amended) An image processing method, comprising:

a region extraction step of separating and extracting a character region, a graphic region and a photograph region from image data;

a region compression step for performing a compression process for image data in each region extracted by said region extraction step;

a region synthesis step for synthesizing the image data of the regions compressed by said region compression step; and

a compression process mode setting step of setting a speed preference mode as a compression process mode;

said region compression step using, when the speed preference mode is set by said compression process mode setting step, one of a plurality of compression methods designated for the image data in each region which exhibits a highest processing speed to perform the compression process for the individual region, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression method is selected from among a plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods ~~which~~ is designated for the type of region.

9. (Currently Amended) An image processing method, comprising:

a region extraction step of separating and extracting a character region, a graphic region and a photograph region from image data;

a region compression step for performing a compression process for image data in each region extracted by said region extraction step;

a region synthesis step for synthesizing the image data of the regions compressed by said region compression step; and

a compression process mode setting step of setting a picture quality mode as a compression process mode;

said region compression step using, when the picture quality mode is set by said compression process mode setting step, one of a plurality of compression methods designated for the image data in each region which exhibits a least picture quality deterioration to perform the compression process for the individual region, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression method is selected from among a plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods ~~which~~ is designated for the type of region.

10. (Currently Amended) An image processing method, comprising:

- a region extraction step of separating and extracting a character region, a graphic region and a photograph region from image data;
- a region compression step for performing a compression process for image data in each region extracted by said region extraction step;
- a region synthesis step for synthesizing the image data of the regions compressed by said region compression step; and
- a compression process mode setting step of setting a size preference mode as a compression process mode;

said region compression step using, when the size preference mode is set by said compression process mode setting step, one of a plurality of compression methods designated for the image data in each region which exhibits a highest compression ratio to perform the compression process for the individual region, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression method is selected from among a plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods ~~which~~ is designated for the type of region.

11. (Currently Amended) An image processing method, comprising:

a region extraction step of separating and extracting a character region, a graphic region and a photograph region from image data;

a region compression step for performing a compression process for image data in each region extracted by said region extraction step;

a region synthesis step for synthesizing the image data of the regions compressed by said region compression step; and

a compression process mode setting step of setting a speed preference mode, a picture quality preference mode or a size preference mode as a compression processing mode;

said region compression step using, when the speed preference mode is set by said compression process mode setting step, one of a plurality of compression methods designated for the image data in each region which exhibits a highest processing speed to perform the compression process for the individual region, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression method is selected from among a plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods ~~which~~ is designated for the type of region,

said region compression step using, when the picture quality mode is set by said compression process mode setting step, one of ~~[[a]]~~ the plurality of compression methods designated for the image data in each region which exhibits a least picture quality deterioration to perform the compression process for the individual region, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression

method is selected from among a plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods ~~which~~ is designated for the type of region, and

said region compression step using, when the size preference mode is set by said compression process mode setting step, one of ~~[[a]]~~ the plurality of compression methods designated for the image data in each region which exhibits a highest compression ratio to perform the compression process for the individual region, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression method is selected from among a plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods ~~which~~ is designated for the type of region.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with computer-readable instructions to cause an image processing device to execute:

a region extraction step of separating and extracting a character region, a graphic region and a photograph region from image data;

a region compression step of performing a compression process for the image data in each region extracted by said region extraction step;

a region synthesis step of synthesizing the image data of the regions compressed by said region compression step; and

a compression method selection step for selecting, for each region, a compression method for the compression process to be performed in accordance with a type of the region from among a plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods ~~which~~ is designated for the type of region;

said region compression step performing the compression process for the image data of each region using the compression method selected for the region data by said compression method selection step.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with computer-readable instructions to cause an image processing device to execute:

a region extraction step of separating and extracting a character region, a graphic region and a photograph region from image data;

a region compression step for performing a compression process for the image data in each region extracted by said region extraction step;

a region synthesis step for synthesizing the image data of the regions compressed by said region compression step; and

a compression process mode setting step of setting a speed preference mode as a compression process mode;

said region compression step using, when the speed preference mode is set by said compression process mode setting step, one of a plurality of compression methods designated for the image data in each region which exhibits the a highest processing speed to perform the compression process for the individual region, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression method is selected from among a plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods ~~which~~ is designated for the type of region.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with computer-readable instructions to cause an image processing device to execute:

a region extraction step of separating and extracting a character region, a graphic region and a photograph region from image data;

a region compression step for performing a compression process for the image data in each region extracted by said region extraction step;

a region synthesis step for synthesizing the image data of the regions compressed by said region compression step; and

a compression process mode setting step of setting a picture quality mode as a compression process mode;

said region compression step using, when the picture quality mode is set by said compression process mode setting step, one of a plurality of compression methods designated for the image data in each region which exhibits ~~the~~ a least picture quality deterioration to perform the compression process for the individual region, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression method is selected from among a plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods ~~which~~ is designated for the type of region.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with computer-readable instructions to cause an image processing device to execute:

a region extraction step of separating and extracting a character region, a graphic region and a photograph region from image data;

a region compression step for performing a compression process for the image data in each region extracted by said region extraction step;

a region synthesis step for synthesizing the image data of the regions compressed by said region compression step; and

a compression process mode setting step of setting a size preference mode as a compression process mode;

said region compression step using, when the size preference mode is set by said compression process mode setting step, one of a plurality of compression methods designated for the image data in each region which exhibits the highest compression ratio to perform the compression process for the individual region, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression method is selected from among a plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods which is designated for the type of region.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with computer-readable instructions to cause an image processing device to execute:

a region extraction step of separating and extracting a character region, a graphic region and a photograph region from image data;

a region compression step for performing a compression process for the image data in each region extracted by said region extraction step;

a region synthesis step for synthesizing the image data of the regions compressed by said region compression step; and

a compression process mode setting step of setting a speed preference mode, a picture quality preference mode or a size preference mode as a compression processing mode;

said region compression step using, when the speed preference mode is set by said compression process mode setting step, one of a plurality of compression methods designated for the image data in each region which exhibits the highest processing speed to perform the compression process for the individual region, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression method is selected from among a plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods ~~which~~ is designated for the type of region,

said region compression step using, when the picture quality mode is set by said compression process mode setting step, one of ~~[[a]]~~ the plurality of compression methods designated for the image data in each region which exhibits the least picture quality deterioration to perform the compression process for the individual region, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression method is selected from among a plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods ~~which~~ is designated for the type of region, and

said region compression step using, when the size preference mode is set by said compression process mode setting step, one of ~~[[a]]~~ the plurality of compression methods designated for the image data in each region which exhibits the highest compression ratio to perform the compression process for the individual region, wherein, for each type of region, the designated compression method is selected from among a plurality of compression methods, wherein each of the plurality of compression methods ~~which~~ is designated for the type of region.